

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are presently pending in this case. Claims 1, 3-5, and 10 are amended by the present amendment. As new Claims 1, 3-5, and 10 are supported by the original disclosure,<sup>1</sup> no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Dworkin (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020071540) in view of Dailey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,352, hereinafter “Dailey”) and Achacoso et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20060090013, hereinafter “Achacoso”).

The outstanding rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 10 recite in part “a viewer counting unit configured to count a number of viewers of contents distributed by the user of the first terminal and to display the number of viewers.”

Dworkin, Dailey, and Achacoso all describe systems for providing conferencing environments. The conferencing are typically business meetings with varying topics. Accordingly, there is no need for a person setting up these conferences to count a number of viewers of contents previously distributed by that user. In this regard, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references teach or suggest a viewer counting unit configured to count a number of viewers of contents previously distributed by the user of the first terminal, much less any device configured to display such a number of viewers. Consequently, Claim 1 (and Claims 2 and 6 dependent therefrom) is patentable over Dworkin in view of Dailey and Achacoso.

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<sup>1</sup>See e.g. the specification at paragraph 152 of the publication of the present application and Figure 15.

Claims 3-5 recite in part:

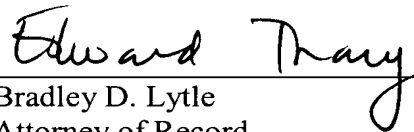
counting a number of viewers of contents distributed by  
the user of the first terminal; and  
displaying the number of viewers.

As noted above, the cited references fail to teach or suggest counting a number of viewers of contents distributed by the user of the first terminal, much less displaying the number of viewers. Consequently, Claims 3-5 (and Claims 7-9 dependent therefrom) are also patentable over Dworkin in view of Dailey and Achacoso.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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